

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following list of claims replaces all prior claims in the application.

Claim 1 (Currently Amended) A computer implemented award process for awarding a credit to a Recipient as an incentive for the timely payment of a billed charge, wherein the billed charge is identified on a Sponsor's computerized books as an account receivable and communicated to an Administrator of an award system implementing the award process, comprising:

electronically receiving, from a Sponsor, an identification of an eligible Recipient, wherein the Sponsor identifies an eligible Recipient based upon a Sponsor determined criteria;

electronically receiving an identification of at least one qualified account receivable associated with the eligible Recipient;

wherein the identification of at least one qualified account receivable is based upon the timely payment of an accounts receivable to the Sponsor;

electronically generating an award based upon the amount of the at least one qualified account receivable;

paying the Administrator a monthly fee corresponding to a value associated with at least one award redeemed by the Recipient; and

transmitting, via a computer network, the award to the Recipient.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended) The process of claim 1, wherein the Sponsor determined criteria used to identify an eligible Recipient specifies, at least in part, that the eligible Recipient is a customer who has timely paid charges billed by a Sponsor, wherein the charges when billed are electronically recorded as an accounts receivable on accounting books [[for]] used by the Sponsor.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended) The process of claim 1, wherein the identification of an eligible Recipient is received from a Sponsor that has provided goods or services to a customer and the qualified account receivable ~~further~~ comprises the value of the goods or services provided by the Sponsor to the customer on an accounts receivables basis.

Claim 4 (Original) The process of claim 1, wherein the Recipient is an entity identified by a customer of a Sponsor, the entity comprising at least one selected from the group consisting of: a person, a business, a charitable organization, and a legal entity.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended) The process of claim 1, wherein the identification of an eligible Recipient is received from a Sponsor who has accessed a computer database containing at least one customer and a billing record associated with the at least one customer, searched the computer database for those customers who ~~ever a given period~~ have timely paid any billed charges on two or more invoices; and designated each customer identified by the search as an eligible Recipient.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended) The process of claim 1, wherein the award further comprises a credit to an account; and the process further comprises:
maintaining a list of prospective customers identified by a Sponsor.

Claim 7 (Original) The process of claim 6, wherein the credit is utilized by the Recipient to reduce the costs of goods/services accrued from a third party vendor.

Claim 8 (Original) The process of claim 7, wherein the third party vendor further comprises a travel agency and the costs of goods/services are travel related costs.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended) The process of claim ~~[[1]]~~ 8, wherein the step of rewarding the award to the Recipient further comprises:
electronically saving the award in a computer based account associated with the Recipient;
notifying the Recipient of the award; and
maintaining the award in the account until the Recipient redeems the award.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended) A computer implemented process for awarding credits used to reduce the cost of travel related services, wherein the credit is awarded by a Sponsor to a customer for timely payment of billed charges, wherein the billed charges appear as accounts receivables on the Sponsor's accounting books, comprising:
receiving a payment from a customer for a billed charge;
determining whether payment is timely;
identifying the customer to a computerized system providing credits to designated recipients when the payment is timely;
identifying the amount of accounts receivables qualified to receive a credit, wherein the accounts receivables are associated with the customer and the billed charges;
wherein the identification of the amount of qualified account receivable is based upon the timely payment of an accounts receivable;

generating a credit for the customer, wherein an amount of the credit is determined based upon the qualified accounts receivables;

electronically saving the credit in computer accessible account accessible by the recipient; [[and]]

transmitting a selected number of credits to a travel agency when the customer submits a request to redeem the selected number of credits from the account;

paying a monthly fee corresponding to a value associated with at least one credit redeemed by a customer; and

whereupon redeeming the selected number of credits, the system electronically transfers payment of an amount equal to the selected number of credits to the travel agency to offset the cost of travel requested by the customer.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended) The process of claim 10, wherein the travel agency and the system are ~~combined into~~ hosted by a single computer ~~based system~~.

Claim 12 (Cancelled).

Claim 13 (Currently Amended) The process of claim 10, wherein the customer, an Administrator and a Sponsor are ~~[[is]]~~ notified each time a credit is added, saved or deleted to the account.

Claims 14-15 (Cancelled).

Claim 16 (Currently Amended) A computer implemented process for utilizing credits to offset the costs of acquiring goods/services, wherein the credits are awarded by a Sponsor based upon a Sponsor's determination of one as a best customer, ~~the timely payment of accounts receivables~~, comprising:

determining, using a computer, a number of credits saved in an account administered by a system hosting an application program provided by an Administrator and providing credits for the timely payment of accounts receivable for a Sponsor subscribing to the system;

wherein the credits saved in the account were awarded by the Administrator based upon an identification of at least one best customer ~~qualified account receivable by the Sponsor~~; ~~the identification being based upon the timely payment of an accounts receivable~~;

determining a goods/services to be purchased by a Recipient from a third party vendor wherein the Recipient specifies at least one preference to the system, the preference being used by the system to identify at least one third party vendor;

electronically identifying the third party vendor to the system by selecting the third party vendor from a listing of third party vendors registered with the system; ~~the third party vendor~~;

requesting an amount of credits to be applied to a purchase of the goods/services from the third party vendor; and

completing the purchase of the goods/services from the third party vendor upon receiving notification from the system that the requested credits have been electronically paid to the third party vendor;

wherein the credits are awarded and electronically saved in the account based upon the ~~timely payment of billed charges identified~~ identification of the Recipient as a best customer by a Sponsor as an account receivable.

Claim 17 (Cancelled)

Claim 18 (Original) The process of claim 16, wherein the Sponsor identifies on a periodic basis to the system a qualified customer and a number of qualified accounts receivables associated with the qualified customer.

Claim 19 (Currently Amended) A computer implemented process for communicating to a credit administering system an identification of a Recipient and qualified accounts receivables upon which credits are based, comprising:

establishing a telecommunications link with a computer based system for administering credits to a Recipient;

electronically identifying to the system a Recipient eligible to receive a credit and identifying qualified accounts receivables associated with the Recipient;

wherein the identification of the qualified accounts is based upon a Sponsor specified set of criteria which at least includes the timely payment of an accounts receivable;

wherein the system upon receiving the identification of the Recipient and the identification of the qualified accounts receivables electronically awards a credit to an account associated with the Recipient,

wherein the credits ~~may be~~ are utilized by the Recipient to offset the cost of acquiring goods/services provided by a third party vendor; and

identifying a prospective Recipient to the system.

Claim 20 (Original) The process of claim 19, wherein the Recipient is a customer of a Sponsor identifying the qualified accounts receivables.

Claim 21 (Original) The process of claim 19, wherein the Recipient is associated with a customer of a Sponsor, the Recipient being selected from the group consisting of: a person, a business, a charitable organization, and a legal entity.

Claim 22 (Previously Presented) The process of claim 19, wherein the credits are electronically redeemed for travel related goods/services.

Claim 23 (Original) The process of claim 19, wherein the third party vendor further comprises a travel agency.

Claim 24 (Original) The process of claim 19, wherein the step of identifying qualified accounts receivables is accomplished via a file transfer from a Sponsor system to the system for administering credits.

Claims 25-62 (Cancelled).